

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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The Health Department of Northwest Michigan reported 11 new confirmed cases on Saturday, October 17th in Charlevoix (3), Emmet (4), and Otsego (4) counties. On Sunday, October 18th we reported 11 new confirmed cases in Antrim (4), Charlevoix (1), Emmet (4), Otsego (2) counties. Today, we are reporting 10 new confirmed cases in Antrim (4), Charlevoix (2), Emmet (2), and Otsego (2) counties. Case investigation and contact tracing are in progress, and relevant information will be shared when it is available.

Last week we offered two drive-thru testing opportunities for Michigan residents in partnership with the National Guard. On October 12th at the Emmet County Fairgrounds 212 people were tested resulting in 4 positives, and on October 15th at City Hall in Boyne City 230 people were tested resulting in 0 positives. We continue to provide weekly testing in Charlevoix on Monday and Wednesday from 10 am – 12 pm, and in Gaylord and Mancelona on Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am – 12 pm. To schedule a free COVID-19 test call 1-800-432-4121.

“It is important to remember that this situation continues to change every day and therefore can evolve rapidly. The pattern of our curve in the Traverse City Region shows that we had a rise in cases in mid-July, another in mid-August and now again in mid-October. As we learn more about this virus each day it is increasingly clear that we must continue to be diligent in protecting those around us. Please stay home if you aren’t feeling well, seek testing if you have symptoms of COVID-19, and if you go out please carefully observe masking and distancing requirements,” stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer.

Today we are reporting case investigation information for 35 confirmed COVID-19 cases. All 35 cases are being reported in our jurisdiction. The following information is from case investigations completed between October 15th - 19th.

- 33 of 35 cases are primary residents
- 2 of 35 cases are non-residents, but are being counted here because: (1) they are staying at a second/summer home in our jurisdiction, (2) a long-term stay in our jurisdiction, or (3) in our jurisdiction prior to testing, and while quarantined and recovering
- Age:
 - 20-29 years – 5 cases
 - 30-39 years- 5 cases
 - 40-49 years – 5 cases
 - 50-59 years – 4 cases
 - 60-69 years – 8 cases
 - 70-79 years – 8 cases
- Symptomatic: 29 cases; Asymptomatic: 6 cases
- 8 cases linked to travel either into or out of the area as reported during their case investigation

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. For more information, visit nwhealth.org.

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- Over 126 total close contacts identified, notified, and instructed to quarantine

During case investigations, the following businesses were identified as potential low-risk, public exposure sites.

- Applebee's, Petoskey on October 12th from 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- Meijer, Petoskey on October 12th from 8:00 – 9:00 pm
- Dollar General, Gaylord on October 13th from 9:00 – 9:15 am
- Meijer, Petoskey on October 14th from 2:00 – 4:00 pm
- Everett's at Boyne Mountain, Boyne Falls on October 15th from 3:45 – 7:45 pm
- Family Fare, Charlevoix on October 15th from 4:00 – 4:30 pm
- Dollar General, Charlevoix on October 15th from 4:30 – 5:00 pm
- Family Fare, East Jordan on October 16th from 5:00 – 5:30 pm
- Dollar General, East Jordan on October 16th from 4:30 – 5:00 pm
- Walmart, Gaylord on October 17th from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

All businesses have been contacted and are working with the health department to ensure their employees and customers are safe. If you have questions about testing or about your potential exposure, please call the health department at 1-800-432-4121.

As of 4:00pm, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting:

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 88, Charlevoix – 123, Emmet – 178, Otsego – 186
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Antrim – 60, Charlevoix – 84, Emmet – 125, Otsego – 137
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Charlevoix – 4, Emmet – 4, Otsego – 12.

The State of Michigan has reported 147,806 cases and 7,031 deaths; and as of October 17th, cumulative recovered cases: 109,539.

Stay up to date on the latest information in the Health Department jurisdiction by [liking and following our Facebook page](#) and visiting our [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#). To locate a testing facility, visit the [Michigan COVID-19 Test Finder website](#). To track the risk levels of COVID-19 pandemic indicators, visit the [MI Safe Start Map website](#).

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